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Rewald asks to be housed in church

By Walter Wright

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Ronald Rewald asked yesterday to be released from prison and allowed to live in a small room at Holy Trinity Catholic Church until he is tried for theft in the Bishop Baldwin case.

Father Raymond B. Churchill of Holy Trinity said yesterday he and several other church members are willing to provide food and housing for Rewald "because it's the Christian thing to do."

Rewald's request will be considered in a circuit court hearing Oct. 24.

Dr. Arnold B. Golden, a psychiatric consultant to the prison medical unit where Rewald is in custody, indicated he is prepared to testify that Rewald is no longer suicidal and that he doesn't think Rewald would respond to any future problems by attempting suicide.

Rewald says he attempted suicide July 29 in reaction to television news accounts of an investigation of his investment company, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham and Wong.

He was hospitalized for treatment of slash wounds on his arms. He was arrested Aug. 8, charged with two counts of theft, and has been held since at Oahu Community Correctional Center in lieu of \$10 million bail.

Rewald's criminal defense attorney, Samuel P. King Jr., asked the court to release Rewald on supervised release or on a "reasonable bail" of \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Circuit Judge Robert Won Bae Chang set the \$10 million bail based on concerns that Rewald would flee.

There has been widespread comment about the amount of bail in contrast to that set for violent crimes, such as

murder. Chang has indicated he was concerned that Rewald might have access to some of the estimated \$12 million invested in his firm before it collapsed.

King argued yesterday that all of the money invested in Bishop Baldwin has since been accounted for.

Thomas Hayes, administrative controller for the bankruptcy trustee in the Bishop Baldwin case, cautioned yesterday that he has accounted only for that money which reached the account books of the company, and said there are substantial other sums unaccounted for.

But Hayes said he has no official position on whether Rewald should be released before his trial.

King also said that Hayes has indicated the bankrupt company would claim any returns from Rewald's \$6

million in life insurance policies. That fact presumably would reduce the incentive for Rewald to attempt suicide again in the hopes of benefiting his family through the insurance policies.

King said prison counselor Guy Hall would testify that Rewald has been a "model prisoner" at OCCC, has shown no signs of wanting to commit suicide and has "on the contrary expressed a strong desire to be released so that he can assist in defending himself."

King said normal bail in a theft case is \$1,000 per count, or \$2,000 in Rewald's case.

Father Churchill said Rewald and his family, who lived a few doors away from Holy Trinity on Kalaniana'ole Highway, were parishioners and that Mrs. Rewald and her children attended mass daily before they returned to the

Mainland.

The priest said he visited Rewald in the prison several weeks ago to ask if he could help. He said Rewald asked only that Churchill pray for his wife and children.

"I left him a copy of the Meditation of St. Paul," Churchill recalled. "He already had a Bible."

Churchill said offering temporary housing for individuals is not unusual for the church, but that Holy Trinity had never housed an accused person pending trial.

The priest said there might be some concern among other parishioners that the church would be using their money to feed and house a man accused of taking money from others.

"But," said Churchill, "we just have to ask ourselves, 'If Jesus Christ were here, how would he handle this?'"

Rewald wants \$300,000 to sign over his assets

Bankruptcy administrative controller Thomas Hayes yesterday labeled as "ridiculous" a request from former investment counselor Ronald Rewald for \$300,000 in return for surrendering title to his real and personal property.

Hayes and bankruptcy trustee Reynaldo Gaulty had earlier asked Rewald's permission to sell assets they could find in return for paying premiums on his \$6 million life insurance policy.

"We were negotiating that for a number of weeks, and we thought we had a deal," Hayes said last night. He said that he had sought an arrangement with Rewald because of the costs of keeping up expenses on Rewald's property regardless of who might eventually pay the bills.

"They came back and said they'd like to do that plus we want another \$50,000 cash," Hayes recalled. "We said if

you want \$50,000 cash, you give us full title to everything immediately.

"They then came back again and said we not only want \$50,000, we want \$300,000 for titles, and we said that's ridiculous."

Hayes said he had no objection to Rewald's being able to pay lawyer's fees, but he did not want to see Rewald gain any money for himself from the bankruptcy proceedings.

"I assume that's his own thinking," Hayes said of the latest request. "I can't imagine that anyone would give him such bad advice."

Rewald was indicted on two counts of felony theft. He is being held in the Oahu Community Correctional Center with bail set at \$10 million.

Rewald is the former chairman of the bankrupt investment firm Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham and Wong.